

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSITIONING BETWEEN STATES OF SECURITY POLICIES USED TO SECURE ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0098] Techniques for dynamically altering security criteria used in a file security system are disclosed. The security criteria pertains to keys (or ciphers) used by the file security system to encrypt electronic files to be secured or to decrypt electronic files already secured. The security criteria can, among other things, include keys that are required to gain access to electronic files. Here, the keys can be changed automatically as electronic files transition between different states of a process-driven security policy. The dynamic alteration of security criteria enhances the flexibility and robustness of the security system. In other words, access restrictions on electronic files can be dependent on the state of the process-driven security policy and enforced in conjunction with one or more cryptographic methods.